(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Fertilizer industry has been facing shortage of natural gas for the last several years. Gas based urea plants received 23.2 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of gas against the requirement of 33.0 MMSCMD during 2003-04. However with the availability of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from 1.4.2005, the supply of gas increased to 27.6 MMSCMD during 2005-06 against the requirement of 34.608 MMSCMD. The Fertilizer Association of India (FAI), which is the apex body of fertilizer manufacturers, has informed that they have not approached the Prime Minister in relation to gas shortage being faced by fertilizer manufacturers.

Due to inadequate availability of gas, urea units are compelled to use costlier substitute feedstock Naphtha resulting in higher subsidy outgo as feedstock cost of urea units is borne by the Government.

For meeting the shortfall of gas for the fertilizer industry, the Department of Fertilizers is in constant interaction with the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and prospective suppliers of Natrual Gas and LNG.

Comparative prices of chemical fertilizers at international market

†1208. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference between the prices of chemical fertilizers in international market and the prices of chemical fertilizers produced in the country;

(b) the details of average prices of said fertilizers during the year 2005-06; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of rates at which subsidy has been given of imported and indigenously produced chemical fertilizers by Government during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The import of urea is canalized and permitted through state Trading Enterprises i.e Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), State Trading Corporation (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL). 7.31 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of urea was imported in Government account through these State Trading Enterprises at the weighted average price of US $ 258.56 cost & freight (C&F) per MT during the year 2005-06. Besides this, 13.25 LMT of granular urea was also imported by Government from Oman India Fertilizer company (OMIFCO) under the long term Urea Off Take Agreement at a predetemined price. The weighted average price paid for import form OMIFCO was US $ 155.23 C&F MT during the year 2005-06. The government is paying the C&F price and handling charges etc. on the urea imported on government Account and sold to the handling & marketing agents at the Pool issue Price (maximum retail price - Distribution Margin) on high sea basis. The gap between the expenditure and recovery is borne by the government as subsidy on imported urea. The net subsidy paid on imported urea during the year 2005-06 was Rs. 1201.43 crores. The weighted average cost of production of indigenous urea during 2005-06 was Rs. 9353 PMT. The amount of subsidy paid on indigenous urea during 2005-06 was Rs. 10460.17 crore.

In case of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers Governments is paying subsidy/concession on indigenous & imported di-ammonium phosphate (DAP). The average normative delivered price and the average concession paid during the year 2005-06 on imported & indigenous DAP was as under :—

(Rs./Per MT)

	Normative average delivered price	Average subsidy/concession
Indigenous DAP	15316	5966
Imported DAP	15075	5725

The country is fully dependent on imports to meet the requirement of Muriate of Potash (MOP) as there is no exploitable reserve of MOP in the country. The average normative delivered price MOP was Rs. 11049 per MT and the average subsidy/concession rate was Rs. 6594 per MT during the year 2005-06.

Selection on Dahej as petro-chemical site

1209. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the region of Dahej in south Gujarat has been proposed by the State Government for development as petroleum, chemicals and petro-chemicals investment region;

(b) whether Dahej has been selected by Government as one of the most important sites ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the resons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) A Task Force on Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) has been constituted to enable quick and coordinated decision making and to provide an appropriate policy framework for the development of investment regions of requisite scale and level of facilities, with the involvement of world class developers and investors, in the field of petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals. The policy is at the draft stage and locations would be considered in terms of the Policy. A definite time limit has not been fixed at this stage.

Revival of Bengal Chemicals Ltd.

1210. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the turnover, profit and loss account of Bengal Chemicals Ltd. during the last three years;